

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 191012 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4620

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4460

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: REFERENCE TO USG OR THAILAND IN FUTURE RLG- LPF PROTOCOL

1. DURING JUNE 18 MEETING WITH PHENG PHONGSAVAN, I REMINDED HIM OF A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE USG IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY WITH LPF TOWARD A DETAILED PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING THE VIENTIANE 1973 AGREEMENT.

2. SPECIFICALLY, I CAUTIONED PHENG AGAINST AGREEING TO ANY PEJORATIVE REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES OR THAILAND IN THE IMPENDING PROTOCOL. I REMINDED HIM OF OUR STRONG BUT UNSUCCESSFUL OBJECTIONS LAST FEBRUARY TO SINGLING OUR USG AND THAILAND IN ARTICLE I(B) OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. MY INITIATIVE WAS APPARENTLY MOST TIMELY. PHENG SAID THAT PHOUMI HAD ALREADY PROPOSED SEVERAL DIRECT CONDEMNATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PROTOCOL NOW UNDER NEGOTIATION. PHENG CLAIMED HE HAD COUNTERED LPF PROPOSAL BY SUGGESTING THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE ALSO BE MENTIONED BY NAME FOR SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS. PHENG PROMISED HE WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE INCLUSION OF DISPARAGING REFERENCES TO US OR THAILAND IN PROTOCOL. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD OBJECT TO INCLUSION IN PROTOCOL OF SAME LANGUAGE AS ARTICLE 1 B

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04460 191051 Z

OF VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. I SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS POINTLESS REDUNDANCY. WE HAD OPPOSED SINGLING OUT OF USG AND THAILAND IN AGREEMENT BACK IN FEBRUARY AND OUR POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED.

3. PHENG THEN SAID THAT HE HAS HEARD THAT LPF WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE AGAIN IN THE PROTOCOL SOME REFERENCE TO USG PARTICIPATION " IN HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE WAR AND IN RECONSTRUCTION OF LAOS." HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN COVERED IN ARTICLE 10(C) OF THE FEBRUARY VIENTIANE AGREEMENT, AND ASKED WHETHER USG WOULD MIND HAVING THIS SUBJECT REITERATED IN THE PROTOCOL. HE ADDED THAT LPF IS EQUATING THEIR CASE WITH THAT OF DRV. SINCE ECONOMIC AID TO DRV WAS IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR US- DRV DISCUSSION IN PARIS, LPF ASSERTS SUBJECT OF US AID TO LAOS SHOULD ALSO BE COVERED IN RLG- LPF PROTOCOL. I REPLIED THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PATHET LAO IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT EXISTING WITH HANOI. WITH DRV WE HAVE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE WITH LPF. I THEREFORE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED PHENG FROM ENTERING INTO DISCUSSION WITH PHOUMI ON THIS SUBJECT , AND TO CONCENTRATE ON ISSUES IN WHICH RLG AND LPF ARE PREDOMINANTLY CONCERNED.
DEAN

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